

Trees are poems the earth writes upon the sky.

Khalil Gibran



Fagus sylvatica 'Purpurea'

1. Copper beech

Start from the kiosk café and walk down towards the park entrance, past a variegated Holly tree, to Tree **1**. Often large with smooth, grey bark, long buds and edible nuts, there are six beech trees in the park, though this magnificent tree is the only copper.



Platanus x hispanica

2. London plane

A pair of **2** guard the entrance from Effingham Road. They cope well with air pollution and regularly shed bark that is contaminated with fine particles from polluted air and rain, making them ideal trees for inner city areas.



Betula pendula

3. Silver birch

After going through the green swing gate turn right, past the park goods depot. Look to your right for **3**, easily recognised by its bright white peeling bark and yellow catkins through the winter months.



Fraxinus excelsior

4. Ash

As you approach the fork in the path there are two **4**, one on your left and another ahead, with a carpet of crocus beneath in Spring. Sadly, many ash have been infected by a fungus that causes leaf loss and a die back of the crown.



Ginkgo biloba

5. Maidenhair tree

Behind the larger ash, on your left, is the uncommon **5**, introduced from Chinese temples. Evolving 290 million years ago before the dinosaurs, they're still used medicinally. The leaves have two lobes or halves, hence the latin name.

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The friends of St Andrew's Park

Tree Trail

Explore the trees of St Andrews Park with this handy guide.

This leaflet will take you on a fascinating stroll around St Andrews Park and show you 26 wonderful trees.

The route begins and ends at The Tea Garden café in the centre of the park and is fully wheelchair and buggy accessible.

The complete circuit should take about 30 minutes.



Map of the 26 trees in this guide.

An online map of this Tree Trail is available at www.bristoltrees.space



Betula utilis var. jaquemontii

6. Himalayan birch

Take a left, towards the pond, and as you round the corner on your left is **6**. It was used in ancient times in India for writing Sanskrit texts. The bark is still used today for wrapping butter, making umbrella covers and bandages.



Quercus ilex

7. Holm oak

On towards the Melita Road park entrance, where you will find on the right hand side an evergreen **7**. Apart from the way its acorns are attached, they share most of the characteristics of the common oak.



Sorbus aucuparia

8. Rowan

Retrace your steps with the bowling green on your left and continue to a splendid **8**, commonly referred to as the mountain ash. Its late summer and early autumn deep red berries are a very welcome food source to birds.



Aesculus hippocastanum

9. Horse chestnut

Over to your right are three mighty **9**, the favourite of generations of children who have collected their nut-like seeds as 'conkers' in Autumn. Despite their long history in Britain, they are non-native, being introduced from the Balkans in the 16th century.



Prunus cerasifera

10. Cherry plum

Just above the toilet block on your left is a copper-leaved **10** introduced from Asia by Victorian gardeners. There is another by the corner of Effingham and Leopold Roads. One of the first European trees to flower in spring - often starting in mid-February - the flowers are white or pale pink and the fruit is a small edible 'drupe', ripening to yellow or red from early July.



Pinus nigra

11. Black or Austrian pine

Walk along with Sommerville Road to your left. You will see the best row of tall **11** in the park as you walk towards the WW2 Bomber Memorial and the entrance to the children's play area.



Tilia (species unknown)

12. Lime

To your right is an avenue of **12** stretching downhill. 5000 years ago lime was Europe's dominant tree species. Some coppiced lime stumps are thousands of years old and are often described as Britain's oldest tree.



Prunus serrulata 'Kanzan'

13. Cherry

Go through the top wooden gate into the play area. Ahead on your left and right are **13**. Much loved for their beautiful display of pink Spring blossom, over 600 varieties have been developed for their fruit and flowers.



Juglans regia

14. English walnut

Walk down towards the paddling pool. Just before the pool is one of four examples of **14** in the park. Very valuable for their timber and often dug out rather than simply felled as the best wood is at the bottom (burr walnut).



Pinus nigra

15. Wellington Bomber Pine

Pass the paddling pool and continue downhill through the left hand gate out of the dog-free area. The first tree on the left is **15** which has a unique story attached: it was damaged in 1942 during WW2, losing its crown when a Wellington bomber struck it before tragically crash-landing in the park (more details on the information panel by Somerville Rd entrance). However, the tree survived and remains one of 34 black pines in the park, mainly around the perimeter, including some recent ones.

Nemophilist is the name given to someone who loves trees. Trees communicate and share nutrients through an underground network of mycorrhizal fungi.



Pinus wallichiana 'Nana'

16. Himalayan White Pine

Keep walking with Maurice Road on your left, halfway along is a dwarf **16**. Grown in Europe since 1836 for its attractive foliage and large cones, it is resistant to air pollution and a commercial source of turpentine.



Aesculus x carnea

17. Red horse chestnut

With more London Planes guarding the entrance next to the Little Library Box. Turn right down the path, now parallel to Leopold Rd, and first tree on your left is **17**, a hybrid from circa 1820 with dark pink flower panicles.



Karpatisorbus bristoliensis

18. Bristol whitebeam

Just by the path a few yards ahead, on your left is the very rare and young **18**. There are only around 300 individuals growing in the wild, all in the Bristol area and we are proud to have one here in this park.



Cedrus libani

19. Cedar of Lebanon

Look to your right, you can see down the path a glorious example of **19** with its unusual horizontal branches. It is a large evergreen conifer with great religious and historical significance in the cultures of the Middle East.



Acer pseudoplatanus

20. Sycamore

Next to another London Plane is a magnificent **20**. Famous for its winged 'helicopter' seeds which can travel long distances, its close-grained timber is used for everything from kitchen utensils to musical instruments and its nectar and pollen attract many species of insects and birds.



The world's tallest tree is a Californian Giant Redwood called Hyperion which, at 116 metres, is even taller than Big Ben's tower in London!



Taxus baccata & Carpinus betulus 'Fastigiata'

21. Yew & 22. Hornbeam

On the left, tucked into the fence two small **21**, one of the longest-lived trees with some specimens over 2000 years old. Yew berries are toxic to animals and many were planted in churchyards to deter commoners' animals from grazing there and because their wood made the strongest longbows, ensuring each parish had a ready supply in times of war. Between the yews stands a **22**, often nicknamed 'flame' due to its shape.



Cedrus atlantica 'Glauca'

23. Blue Atlas Cedar

Walk down to the entrance at the corner of Leopold and Effingham Road. Turn right. On your left is a young specimen **23**, which is native to the Atlas Mountains of Morocco and has unusual smooth cones.



Thuja plicata

24. Western red cedar

Further along, is **24** (one branch is carved into an elephant) an evergreen conifer native to North Western USA where it grows up to 70m tall and provides natural cover for bears, racoons and skunks!



Prunus padus

25. Bird cherry

On your right are two magnificent **25**. In Spring they erupt into a mass of strongly scented white flowers providing an early source of insect food. The small black berries are edible but bitter. Birds eat the berries and spread the seeds in their droppings, hence their common name.



Acer campestre

26. Field maple

Walk back uphill towards the cafe kiosk. On your left is **26**, a pollution fighter, autumn stunner and syrup maker - supporting caterpillars, aphids and all their predators.

